

Appl. No. 10/004,510
Amdt. dated Aug. 20, 2004
Reply to Office action of Apr. 20, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 10-33 are presently pending.

Claims 1, 10-13, 16, 18-23, 26, 28-30, 32 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,259,937 to Klaucke. The applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 10-13, 16, 18-23, 26, 28-30, 32 and 33, as presently recited, are not unpatentable over Klaucke.

Klaucke discloses a sprocket with two different flank profiles in an alternating, *i.e.*, non-randomized, pattern in order to compensate for chain elongation. Klaucke describes its sprocket as comprising “long teeth 32...an alternate shorter teeth 34 of a different profile.” (Col. 2, ll. 23-26.) In contrast, claims 1, 10-13, 16, 18-23, 26, 28-30, 32 and 33 presently recite differing flank profiles arranged in a randomized pattern. As described in the present application, a randomized pattern of flank profiles can reduce the amplitude of the harmonics related to the meshing frequency and the noise level without subjecting the chain to excessive stress. (See Application, p. 3, ll. 1-4.)

Claims 1 and 10-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,997,424 to Young. Claims 1 and 10-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,090,003 to Young. The applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 10-33, as presently recited, are not unpatentable over either the '424 patent or the '003 patent.

Both the '424 patent and the '003 patent disclose sprockets having teeth with asymmetrical flank profiles. In contrast, claims 1 and 10-33 recite sprockets having symmetrical teeth. Moreover, both the '424 patent and the '003 patent teach away from symmetrical teeth, stating that “[i]t is feasible but not recommended to reduce the pressure angle γ while maintaining a symmetrical tooth profile.” ('424 patent, col. 3, 20-22; '003 patent, col. 3, ll. 25-27.)

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For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 10-33. Please charge any fees required by this amendment to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

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